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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Professor Thomas H. Macbride has been elected president emeritus of the State University of Iowa upon his retirement from the presidency at the age of sixty-eight.

Professor E. J. Durand, of the University of Missouri, spent part of the summer collecting in Wyoming.

Mr. Paul C. Graff has been appointed instructor in botany at the University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. He entered upon his new duties September 15.

Dr. W. A. Murrill has found that *Melanoleuca anomala* Murrill, published in MYCOLOGIA 5: 214. 1913, has pale-yellowish-brown spores instead of hyaline spores, and he therefore transfers the species to the genus *Inocybe,* the new combination being **Inocybe anomala** Murrill.

Dr. Donald Reddick, professor of plant pathology, Cornell University, and chairman of the editorial board of *Phytopathology,* has been granted sabbatic leave and will spend the ensuing academic year in special work in the laboratory of plant physiology, Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Gertrude S. Burlingham, who contributed the descriptions of *Russula* for volume 9, part 4, of *North American Flora,* finds that *Russula subfragilis* Burl., on page 233, is preoccupied by *R. subfragilis* P. Henn. (in Warb. Monsunia 1: 149. 1899), and she suggests **Russula fragiliformis** Burl. as a new name for this species.

We learn from *Science* that Professor J. C. Arthur was assisted during July in the preparation of the remaining parts of the Uredinales for *North American Flora* by F. D. Kern, C. R.

Orton, F. D. Fromme, and C. A. Ludwig, all former members of Dr. Arthur's laboratory staff.

An article recently published by Mr. L. O. Overholts in the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* contains descriptions and illustrations of four new species of gill-fungi: *Claudopus subnidulans, Panaeolus reticulatus, P. rufus,* and *P. variabilis.* All of the species were collected by Mr. Overholts in the vicinity of St. Louis, Missouri.

Volume 6 of the *Memoirs* of the New York Botanical Garden contains thirty-seven papers presented at the celebration of the twentieth anniversary, among them "The development of *Lepiota cristata* and *L. seminuda,*" by G. F. Atkinson, "Japanese species of *Gymnosporangium,*" by F. D. Kern, "Chemotropic reactions in *Rhizopus nigricans,*" by A. H. Graves, and "Bermuda fungi," by F. J. Seaver.

Dr. S. M. Stocker, of Duluth, Minnesota, contributes the following note: "On September 7, 1916, I found a specimen of *Pluteus cervinus* so much larger than any heretofore seen by me that I measured it. The outline of the cap was oval, not circular, and the measurements were 9½ × 7 inches. Perhaps this is not unknown, but it seems to me worth letting you know."

A fine fresh specimen of *Thelephora vialis* has been sent in for determination by Mr. Timothy E. Wilcox, of Washington, D. C. It is large, many times lobed, rosy-smoke-colored below and cream-colored to honey-yellow above, with a somewhat disagreeable odor in drying which is very noticeable. Dr. Burt reports a former collection of this species at Washington by Mr. F. J. Braendle.

The July number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research* contains an article on the disease of potatoes known as "leak," by Lon A. Hawkins. The disease usually appears after the crop has been harvested and according to Hawkins is caused by the fungus *Pythium debaryanum* Hesse. *Rhizopus nigricans* Ehrenb.

also causes a rot of potatoes similar to but not identical with this disease.

In the April number of *Phytopathology,* J. E. Howitt and W. A. McCubbin published an account of an outbreak of white-pine blister rust, *Cronartium ribicola,* in Ontario. The *Peridermium* stage has been found on both native and imported white pine and the *Cronartium* stage on five cultivated and four wild species of *Ribes.* Black currants have in several instances suffered severe injury from the disease.

Number four of the second volume of *Illinois Biological Monographs* consists of an account of the Porto Rican species of the genus *Meliola* by Professor F. L. Stevens. The number of species listed is 95, of which 56 are described as new. Six varieties are also recognized, all new. The paper contains five plates, consisting of photomicrographs, the most conspicuous feature of which is the absence of all detail. It is to be lamented that in a paper of this size and importance more time and attention has not been devoted to the matter of illustration.

Among specimens of fungi recently collected in Surinam by Mr. Jacob Samuels are the following: *Amauroderma Chaperi, Auricularia Auricula, Auricularia nigrescens, Cladoderris dendritica, Coriolopsis caperata, Cycloporellus iodinus, Earliella corrugata, Elfvingia tornata, Elfvingiella fasciata, Fomes Auberianus, Fomitella supina, Fulvifomes extensus, Guepinia spathularia, Lentinus strigosus, Pogonomyces hydnoides, Rigidoporus surinamensis, Stereum elegans, Trametes cubensis.*

The University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 189 contains the results of an extensive study of the parasitic species of *Rhizoctonia* in America. There are at present recognized two parasitic species of this genus, *R. Solani* Kühn and *R. Crocorum* (Pers.) DC. About 165 plants have been listed in the United States as subject to the attacks of *Rhizoctonia Solani,* including many floricultural plants, vegetables, and field crops. The disease produces damping-off of seedlings or rotting of stems and roots, etc., the nature of the infection being essentially the same in different plants.

Two excellent illustrated papers on the Polyporaceae have been published during the past year by Mr. L. O. Overholts. The first is a treatment of the Polyporaceae of the middle-western United States, which appeared in *Washington University Studies* for July, 1915. The second, entitled comparative studies of the Polyporaceae, was printed in the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* for November, 1915. Students of this family of fungi should not fail to add these papers to their library.

Professor T. Petch has been studying the sclerotia of *Lentinus* found on stumps of *Hevea,* and he says that in addition to species possessing a true sclerotium, there appear to be others whose mycelium merely binds together the earth in a large compact mass, while *Lentinus similis* and *L. infundibuliformis* exhibit a third type in which the skeleton of the pseudosclerotium consists of the wood of the host plant. It is considered as still an open question whether these types are definitely associated with different species of *Lentinus* or are merely stages which may be assumed by the sclerotium in any given species.

In an article published in the July number of the *American Journal of Botany,* W. B. McDougall makes the following statement regarding mycorrhizal relations existing between mushrooms and the roots of forest trees:

"Three of the species of trees used in the present investigation produce ectotrophic mycorrhizas, the oak (*Quercus*), hickory (*Carya*) and linden (*Tilia*). The mycorrhizas of the oak are due to *Russula foetentula* Pk., those of the linden to *Scleroderma vulgare* Fr., and those of the hickory probably to *Laccaria ochropurpurea* (Berk.) Pk., though this last has not been definitely proven. In all of these cases no mycorrhizas were formed in the spring, but after the first of July mycorrhizas were formed whenever the roots were growing well."

Dr. E. A. Burt's valuable articles on the Thelephoraceae of North America are appearing regularly in the *Annals of the Mis-*

souri Botanical Garden. His fourth article contains a treatment of *Exobasidium* and the fifth a treatment of *Tremellodendron, Eichleriella,* and *Sebacina.* The following new species are published in these genera: *Tremellodendron tenue* Burt, collected in Jamaica by Murrill; *T. simplex* Burt, collected in Porto Rico by Johnston; *Eichleriella Schrenkii* Burt, collected in Texas by Schrenk; *E. gelatinosa* Murrill, collected in Jamaica by Murrill and Harris; *Sebacina chlorascens* Burt, collected in Florida by Thaxter; *S. Shearii* Burt, collected in Washington, D. C., by Shear; *S. monticola* Burt, collected in Colorado by Hedgcock; *S. cinnamomea* Burt, collected in Maryland by Shear; *S. adusta* Burt, collected in Idaho by Weir; *S. plumbea* Burt, collected in Washington by Suksdorf; and *S. atrata* Burt, collected in Massachusetts by Farlow. There are also many new combinations.

Preparation of manuscript for the fungous parts of *North American Flora* is proceeding very satisfactorily. Dr. Arthur will soon complete another part on plant rusts. Dr. Seaver will send a part to press within a few months. Mrs. Flora W. Patterson, who is monographing the Exoascales, has received prompt and generous responses to her requests for material and will soon be able to complete her researches in this group. Mr. L. O. Overholts has undertaken the genus *Pholiota,* which he hopes to complete within a year. Dr. C. H. Kauffman has practically completed *Cortinarius* and will now take up *Inocybe.* He would be glad to receive material for the study of this difficult genus. Professor W. C. Coker has undertaken the Clavariaceae and has already spent some time at the Garden and also at Albany studying herbarium material. Professor E. A. Burt will be prepared to publish his researches on the Thelephoraceae in *North American Flora* as soon as the series of papers which he is publishing in the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* have been completed, which may require two or three years. A part on lichens has been arranged for by the cooperation of Professor Bruce Fink, Professor Lincoln W. Riddle, Professor A. H. Chivers, and Mr. W. C. Barbour.

NORTH AMERICAN FLORA, VOLUME 9

This volume closes with parts 6 and 7, containing a treatment of *Clitocybe* and *Hygrophorus* by W. A. Murrill and a bibliography by J. H. Barnhart. In order to facilitate the use of the volume, the following indexes have been prepared: Index to Families and Tribes, Index to Recognized Genera and Species, Index to Species, and General Index.

As explained in the "Corrections" in part 6, the use of *Leptomyces* in part 5 was an error. The correct name of this genus is: *Hiatula* (Fries) Berk. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. II. **9**: 193. 1852. The type species is *Agaricus discretus* Fries, and the 5 species described on pages 309 and 310 should be corrected as follows:

1. *Hiatula discreta* (Fries) Sacc. Syll. Fung. **5**: 307. 1887.
2. *Hiatula minima* Berk. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. II. **9**: 193. 1852.
3. *Hiatula ciliatula* (Fries) Sacc. Syll. Fung. **5**: 306. 1887.
4. *Hiatula purpurascens* Berk. & Curt. Jour. Linn. Soc. **10**: 293. 1868.
5. *Hiatula Benzonii* (Fries) Sacc. Syll. Fung. **5**: 305. 1887.

AN EXPERIMENT WITH PANAEOLUS PAPILIONACEUS

The following note was recently received from Mr. J. E. Fries, of Ampere, New Jersey:

"Last Sunday morning I had great difficulty in finding any mushrooms whatever, so I was happy when I finally came across a few specimens of Coprinus mixed in with a few of *Panaeolus papilionaceus.* I have never tried this last mushroom, but, as Mr. McIlvaine says that in small quantities they are harmless and contain a very mild intoxicant only, I did not hesitate to let them join the Coprini in the pot. The results, however, were very startling. Mrs. Fries could not possibly have eaten more than two or three of the caps and yet she exhibited all the signs of violent opium poisoning only five or six minutes after having eaten this mushroom. For a while she had difficulty in breathing and all the sensations in the brain described under acute opium poisoning. Drowsiness crept over her, but we took a walk and in about three to four hours it was all over save for a great feeling of weakness.

"I ate about five times as much as Mrs. Fries and in the beginning felt nothing. It took between one and two hours before the poisoning took effect on me. My respiratory organs were not affected at all, but for several hours, in fact, lasting from about 3 o'clock in the afternoon until 8 o'clock at night, I had all the queer mental as well as 'moral' sensations described in the 'Confessions of an Opium Eater.'

"If such small quantities of this mushroom can act so powerfully, it seems to me dangerous in the extreme to speak of its qualities in such light manner as Mr. McIlvaine does and I think the public should be strongly warned against using this species at all."

Lamprospora detonia sp. nov.

Plants scattered, 5 to 12 mm. in diameter, sessile, plate-like, with margins elevated about 0.7 mm., slightly incurved and free from substratum, regular in form, becoming convolute on drying; hymenium smooth, concave to plane, dark-brown to black with a green tint, the margin distinct and raised about 0.1 mm. from the apothecium, externally brown, rough and verrucose; asci cylindric, about 15 μ in diameter, up to 300 μ long, hyaline; spores 8, 1-seriate, crowded into the upper third or one fourth of the ascus, at first smooth, with a large oil-globule, dilutely colored, becoming minutely warted, brown and opaque so as to appear black under the microscope, 12 to 15 μ in diameter; paraphyses slender, yellowish, the apex thickened and colored.

Among moss on shaded ground, in woods on the banks of the Cheyenne River, near Anselm, N. Dak. This species differs from *L. trachycarpa* by the greenish tint of the hymenium and the smaller, minute, wart-like markings of the spores. When the plants are first raised from the shaded ground into sunlight, in a moment, a discharge of spores takes place. A small dust-cloud almost an inch high shoots up from the hymenium. The phenomenon may be explained by the warming and expansion of the air or gases in the lower two thirds of the asci. The spores, crowded into the upper end, are pressed against the operculum until it gives way and are then shot into the air.

J. F. BRENCKLE.